



Francis Marion and Sumter National Forests
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Forest Service, Southern Region
4931 Broad River Road Columbia, SC 29212

Contact: Lynn Ballard: 208-313-7737

April 21, 2010 (FMS 1004)

MEDIA ADVISORY

Military Pilots Train for Wildland Firefighting

GREENVILLE, SC: You are cordially invited to join us for Media Day to view military pilots flying C-130 aircraft conduct a training exercise water drop at the South Carolina Technology and Aviation Center (Donaldson Center Industrial Air Park), Greenville, South Carolina.

Media Opportunity:

Date: April 29, 2010 (Thursday)

Time: 10:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M. with a water drop scheduled at 11:00 A.M.

Location: South Carolina Technology and Aviation Center (Donaldson Center),
2nd Exchange Street Greenville, SC.

Media need to confirm their Media Day attendance prior to the event with either:

- **Lynn Ballard; MAFFS Information Officer cell: 208-5313-7737 or**
- **LTC Rose S. Dunlap; NCANG Public Affairs Officer cell: 980-721-4032**

From 10:00A.M. to 11:00 A.M., media will receive a briefing on the MAFFS operation and have time to set-up and conduct interviews with the MAFFS Aerospace Expeditionary Squadron (AES) Commander, LTC Dennis M. Bailey III, with the North Carolina Air National Guard's 145th Airlift Wing, MAFFS Liaison Officer (MLO) Lee Burwell and other military and civilian personnel involved in the training.

At 11:00 A.M. the media water drop will commence. Media and MAFFS personnel will remain at the Center in Greenville, SC where visibility will be excellent for the water drop. After the water drop, additional media opportunities will be available.

The C-130s from Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve units are outfitted with a Modular Airborne Firefighting System (MAFFS). The equipment is loaded in the back of the aircraft, and drops up to 3,000 gallons of fire retardant on identified targets using an air-pressurized system. The aircraft are used to augment the civilian airtanker fleet currently committed to initial attack assignments. The Air National Guard units with MAFFS capabilities are normally activated for thirty days.

The week-long training from April 26, 2010 to April 30, 2010 involves about 300 air and ground personnel from Colorado, California, Wyoming and North Carolina.

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The mission of the USDA Forest Service is to sustain the health, diversity and productivity of the nation's forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations.